

**RAPID-EXCHANGE BALLOON CATHETER  
WITH HYPOTUBE SHAFT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A rapid-exchange balloon catheter for medical treatment of a patient includes a shaft with proximal and distal sections. The proximal shaft section has a hypotube with a proximal tubular portion, an intermediate tubular portion with a longitudinal indentation, and a distal portion. The distal shaft section has an inner and outer tubular body, and their proximal ends are sealed to the  
10 hypotube near a transition between the hypotube indented portion and the hypotube distal portion. The inner body defines a guidewire lumen extending from a proximal guidewire port at its proximal end and a distal guidewire port at its distal end. The hypotube distal portion extends into the space between the inner and outer tubular bodies, and provides a flexibility transition from the proximal shaft section to the distal shaft section.